

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application. In the Office Action dated January 22, 2004, the Examiner stated that applicants' arguments filed on November 11, 2003 were persuasive regarding the Varasprasad et al. ('262) and Jang ('007) references such that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 of October 21, 2002 based on these references have been withdrawn. However, the Examiner continued by stating that applicants' arguments concerning the applicability of the Takahashi et al. ('330) and Brotz ('382) references were not persuasive since, although the Examiner concurs with applicants' remarks concerning these references with the exception of the placement of an electrical voltage being applied between two locations, and stated that applicants may have intended that the locations be points or at least locations not covering sides of the polymeric material, the language of the claims does not so indicate this meaning of "locations." The Examiner then stated that Takahashi et al. and Brotz both show their electrodes on the sides of their respective polymers, the electrodes clearly being placed at locations thereon, and for this reason, the rejections based on these references have been maintained.


Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for clearly identifying the basis for the rejection of claims 1-4, and have amended claims 1 and 3 in accordance with the Examiner's reasoning to distinguish the present claimed invention from those of Takahashi et al. and Brotz. No new matter has been added by these changes, since support therefore may be derived from Figs. 1, 2, 7a, and 7b, and page 6, lines 32 and 33 to page 7, line 1 of the subject Specification, as originally filed. Therein it is observed that the electrodes attached to strips, wires or other shapes of conducting polymer are not coextensive with any of the larger sides of the polymer actuator.

For the reasons set forth hereinabove, applicants believe that claims 1-4, as amended, are in condition for allowance or appeal, the former action by the Examiner being earnestly solicited at an early date. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



Signature of Attorney

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